

# Living/Nonliving Research Paper

## Purpose

Write a research report about things found in nature and things found outside of nature. Students will use a variety of references materials (online resources, encyclopedias, books, pictures, charts, diagrams, etc.) to work through the research process (defining the topic, gathering information, determining credibility, reporting findings). Students will then use a computer to draft, revise, and publish their writing.

## Materials

*For the teachers:* reference materials, including pre-determined websites, encyclopedias, books, etc.; rubric to assess the final product; chalk; chalkboard  
*For the students:* a variety of reference materials, access to word processing

## Activity

### A. Pre-Activity Preparation

1. Find some child-friendly websites that the students may use for their research.
2. Gather other resources, such as books, magazines, and encyclopedias.
3. Create a rubric to assess the research paper.
4. Create a web, where the students will record the information learned from their research.

### B. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Brainstorm and discuss the difference between living and nonliving things.
2. Generate a list of living and nonliving things and write onto a T-chart on the chalkboard.
3. Have each student pick one living thing and one nonliving thing to research.
4. Model how to gather and summarize information onto the web created by the teacher.

### C. Writing and Publishing the Research Paper

1. Allow students time to research the topic and complete their webs.
2. Model how to turn the information on the web into a research paper. The information about the living thing should go into one paragraph, while a separate paragraph should be started for the information about the nonliving thing.

## Technology Literacy Standards

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
1	X		X		X	X	X
2	X	X	X	X		X	
3	X	X				X	
4		X		X		X	
5						X	
6		X				X	
7				X		X	
8				X		X	
9				X		X	
10				X		X	
11						X	
12						X	
13				X			
14						X	
15				X			
16							

☒ = This Technology Literacy Standard is addressed in this lesson.

☐ = This Technology Literacy Standard is not addressed in this lesson.

3. Allow students time to write their two paragraphs.
4. Guide the students through the teacher's preferred editing/proofreading process.
5. Allow the students time to publish their writing, teaching them the appropriate revision strategies as needed.

#### **D. Close the Activity**

1. Students will share their paragraphs with their classmates and then turn in the word processed research paper.
2. The teacher will assess the papers, using the predetermined rubric.

### **Classroom Assessment** \_\_\_\_\_

Using the teacher-developed rubric, assessment will occur as students submit their word processed document.